

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS Canberra

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INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES, APRIL 1979

INQUIRIES

If you want to know more about these statistics ring Mr Joe Christensen on Canberra 526581 or our State office, or write to Information Services, ABS, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616

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MAIN FEATURES

The figures below refer to industrial disputes involving stoppages of 10 man-days or more.

- There were 188 disputes in April 1979, in which 151,900 working days were lost by the 68,200 workers involved.
- The largest disputes involved transport workers in five States and the A.C.T. and postal and telecommunications workers in all States and the A.C.T.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

More detailed information about disputes appears in the quarterly publication *Industrial Disputes* (6322.0).

2. The statistics of industrial disputes are compiled according to the Australian Standard Industrial Classification (ASIC), described in the Bureau publication *Australian Standard Industrial Classification (Preliminary Edition)*, 1969, Vol. 1.

3. The statistics refer only to disputes involving stoppages of work of ten man-days or more. Workers involved include workers directly and indirectly involved in disputes. Workers indirectly involved are those thrown out of work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred, but who are not themselves parties to the dispute. Particulars of some stoppages (e.g. those involving a large number of establishments) may have

been estimated and the statistics therefore should be regarded as giving a broad measure of the extent of stoppages of work (as defined).

4. Stoppages of work occurring at different times and at different establishments, but having a common cause may be regarded as one industrial dispute. However, an industrial dispute occurring in more than one State is counted as a separate dispute in each State. Disputes not settled at the end of a year are included as new disputes in the figures for the following year. The monthly statistics refer to all disputes operative in the month, including those disputes that commenced in previous months. In Table 1 details of the number of disputes and workers involved are shown separately for disputes beginning in the month and for all disputes. Average days lost per worker involved on a monthly basis are not comparable with the yearly averages, because workers involved are included in each month in which they are involved in disputes, while they are counted once only for each dispute in the annual statistics.

Related publications

5. All publications produced by the ABS are listed in *Catalogue of Publications* (1101.0) which is available free of charge from any ABS office.

Symbols and other usages

.. not applicable
p preliminary — figure subject to revision.

6. Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

R. J. CAMERON
Australian Statistician

TABLE 1. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : AUSTRALIA

| Period | Number of disputes | | Workers involved ('000) | | Working days lost | | Estimated loss in wages (a) (\$'000) |
|-------------|--------------------|-----------|-------------------------|-----------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | Beginning in month | Total (a) | Beginning in month | Total (a) | Number (a) ('000) | Average days per worker involved (b) | |
| 1976 | .. | 2,055 | .. | 2,189.9 | 3,799.2 | 1.7 | 114,552 |
| 1977 | .. | 2,090 | .. | 596.2 | 1,654.8 | 2.8 | 59,674 |
| 1978 | .. | 2,277 | .. | 1,075.6 | 2,130.8 | 2.0 | 78,404 |
| 1978 - | | | | | | | |
| March | 156 | 183 | 32.1 | 39.3 | 83.5 | 2.1 | 3,286 |
| April | 184 | 208 | 102.1 | 110.0 | 227.5 | 2.1 | 8,078 |
| May | 225 | 249 | 346.9 | 368.9 | 413.6 | 1.1 | 14,156 |
| June | 178 | 200 | 57.3 | 60.4 | 150.6 | 2.5 | 6,253 |
| July | 213 | 233 | 68.1 | 79.5 | 159.9 | 2.0 | 6,290 |
| August | 234 | 256 | 142.4 | 155.9 | 250.2 | 1.6 | 9,498 |
| September | 237 | 289 | 84.4 | 101.0 | 252.8 | 2.5 | 8,859 |
| October | 241 | 287 | 58.9 | 75.7 | 207.0 | 2.7 | 7,672 |
| November | 203 | 248 | 53.3 | 72.8 | 170.7 | 2.3 | 6,184 |
| December | 105 | 126 | 81.2 | 89.1 | 114.7 | 1.3 | 4,253 |
| 1979 - | | | | | | | |
| January | 133 | 133 | 25.2 | 25.2 | 51.0 | 2.0 | 2,199 |
| February | 197 | 214 | 75.0 | 79.0 | 233.0 | 3.0 | 10,195 |
| March | 256 | 290 | 84.5 | 99.5 | 222.9 | 2.2 | 8,461 |
| April (c) p | 138 | 188 | 42.8 | 68.2 | 151.9 | 2.2 | 5,346 |

(a) Refers to all disputes operative and workers involved in the period. (b) Monthly figures are not comparable with yearly figures. (c) Excludes truck owner-drivers who participated in blockades and employees stood down as a result.

TABLE 2. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : INDUSTRIES, AUSTRALIA
WORKING DAYS LOST ('000) (a)

| Period | Manufacturing | | | | | Transport and storage; communication | | | All industries | |
|-------------|---------------|-------|---|-------|--------------|--------------------------------------|-------|----------------------|----------------|--|
| | Mining | | Metal products, machinery and equipment | Other | Construction | Steve-doring services | Other | Other industries (b) | | |
| | Coal | Other | | | | | | | | |
| 1976 | 159.1 | 215.0 | 775.0 | 856.5 | 535.8 | 37.1 | 388.0 | 832.6 | 3,799.2 | |
| 1977 | 102.8 | 170.9 | 204.4 | 455.7 | 215.2 | 39.9 | 172.6 | 293.3 | 1,654.8 | |
| 1978 | 142.3 | 125.1 | 732.1 | 490.2 | 134.1 | 122.9 | 166.9 | 217.2 | 2,130.8 | |
| 1978 - | | | | | | | | | | |
| March | 11.6 | 8.1 | 15.9 | 13.2 | 6.2 | 4.7 | 16.4 | 7.4 | 83.5 | |
| April | 6.6 | 15.0 | 65.9 | 84.0 | 2.0 | 39.7 | 9.7 | 4.8 | 227.5 | |
| May | 7.4 | 14.0 | 288.6 | 32.6 | 20.0 | 14.1 | 13.5 | 23.5 | 413.6 | |
| June | 36.4 | 13.6 | 24.0 | 17.4 | 14.2 | 3.7 | 26.8 | 14.5 | 150.6 | |
| July | 19.0 | 15.3 | 40.1 | 26.6 | 9.8 | 1.4 | 9.5 | 38.2 | 159.9 | |
| August | 13.5 | 24.4 | 111.6 | 40.8 | 28.0 | 6.2 | 16.9 | 8.8 | 250.2 | |
| September | 15.1 | 1.8 | 48.3 | 74.0 | 14.7 | 38.9 | 24.0 | 35.9 | 252.8 | |
| October | 10.4 | 16.1 | 43.2 | 97.8 | 12.9 | 3.4 | 2.8 | 20.4 | 207.0 | |
| November | 4.4 | 6.1 | 46.1 | 56.1 | 8.3 | 4.7 | 6.2 | 38.8 | 170.7 | |
| December | 6.4 | 2.3 | 33.0 | 37.7 | 3.9 | 3.9 | 32.1 | 14.6 | 114.7 | |
| 1979 - | | | | | | | | | | |
| January | 5.6 | 5.4 | 8.1 | 7.5 | 1.6 | 2.0 | 3.6 | 7.2 | 51.0 | |
| February | 12.2 | 7.2 | 52.9 | 21.3 | 15.0 | 1.9 | 43.7 | 78.9 | 233.0 | |
| March | 17.2 | 15.2 | 46.5 | 27.6 | 24.6 | 1.6 | 67.8 | 22.4 | 222.9 | |
| April (c) p | 1.8 | 5.4 | 21.0 | 39.9 | 11.5 | 6.3 | 58.3 | 13.8 | 151.9 | |

(a) Refers to all disputes operative in the period. (b) ASIC divisions A, D, F, I to L. (c) See footnote (c) to Table 1.

TABLE 3. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES
WORKING DAYS LOST ('000) (a)

| Period | N.S.W. | Vic. | Qld | S.A. | W.A. | Tas. | Aust. (b) |
|-------------|---------|---------|-------|-------|-------|------|-----------|
| 1976 | 1,456.5 | 1,420.0 | 426.0 | 151.8 | 252.1 | 62.2 | 3,799.2 |
| 1977 | 538.2 | 586.1 | 240.8 | 30.6 | 220.5 | 26.7 | 1,654.8 |
| 1978 | 970.8 | 468.1 | 360.3 | 79.1 | 197.9 | 35.4 | 2,130.8 |
| 1978 - | | | | | | | |
| March | 40.1 | 7.9 | 13.9 | 5.4 | 14.6 | 0.1 | 83.5 |
| April | 104.4 | 44.5 | 25.8 | 16.0 | 26.6 | 9.1 | 227.5 |
| May | 198.9 | 131.4 | 45.2 | 11.2 | 16.2 | 8.9 | 413.6 |
| June | 52.1 | 23.5 | 55.2 | 3.2 | 11.5 | 4.9 | 150.6 |
| July | 90.3 | 19.2 | 24.6 | 5.4 | 17.4 | 1.0 | 159.9 |
| August | 136.0 | 38.7 | 40.4 | 10.9 | 19.9 | 3.0 | 250.2 |
| September | 125.1 | 79.9 | 27.2 | 6.6 | 8.3 | 1.9 | 252.8 |
| October | 94.0 | 38.4 | 38.4 | 5.0 | 21.7 | 4.2 | 207.0 |
| November | 59.9 | 33.8 | 33.8 | 7.3 | 34.1 | 0.7 | 170.7 |
| December | 30.6 | 17.3 | 44.2 | 4.7 | 17.4 | 0.6 | 114.7 |
| 1979 - | | | | | | | |
| January | 22.6 | 15.3 | 3.6 | 0.2 | 7.8 | 0.7 | 51.0 |
| February | 158.4 | 46.9 | 5.4 | 9.1 | 6.6 | 2.7 | 233.0 |
| March | 103.1 | 71.8 | 18.7 | 4.4 | 10.2 | 6.4 | 222.9 |
| April (c) p | 60.1 | 55.6 | 12.8 | 11.1 | 9.2 | 2.1 | 151.9 |

(a) Refers to all disputes operative in the period. (b) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory. (c) See footnote (c) to Table 1.